IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of determining an appropriate character set for use in client-server communications, comprising at least one of:

(a) selecting a character set for a client request made by client to a server using a network communication protocol, the selecting comprising:

determining whether the client request includes, as part of the network communication protocol, a request character set designation; and

if the client request does not include the request character set designation[[,]]:

(i) retrieving locale information contained in the client request; and

(ii) associating the locale information with the request character set designation using mapping data located on the server; and

(b) selecting a response character set for a response from the server to the client, the selecting comprising:

determining whether the server response includes a response character set designation; and

if the server response does not include the response character set designation[[,]]:

(i) retrieving locale information contained in the server response; and

(ii) associating the locale information contained in the server response with the response character set designation using the mapping data.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the network communications protocol used to make the client request and the server response comprises the hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP).

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein associating comprises accessing a character set lookup table that maps the locale information to the request character set designation and response request character set designation, respectively.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising associating the request character set designation with a code-set converter designation by accessing a converter lookup table which maps the code-set converter designation with the request character set designation.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the locale information contains a cultural language preference identifier.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the character set designations contain an IANA character set parameter.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising associating the request character set designation with a code-set converter designation.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the code-set converter designation is contained in a lookup table and is mapped with response character set designation.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the code-set converter designation is indicative of user specific implementations of character sets.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising converting the client request into Unicode characters.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising converting the response from Unicode characters to the character set associated with the locale information.

12. (Currently Amended) A server computer system connected to at least one client computer, the server computer system comprising a memory containing a code-set program and at least one processor, wherein the processor, when executing the code-set program, is configured to:

determine if a request header composed according to a network communications protocol received with a client request from the at least one client computer designates a character set; and

if [[not,]] the request header does not designate the character set:

(i) retrieve locale information from the client request; and

(ii) associate the locale information with a character set.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the processor is further configured to associate the character set with a code-set converter.

14. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the locale information contains a language identifier.

15. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the code-set converter is a JVM code-set converter.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing at least a code-set program which, when executed by a server computer, performs operations comprising at least one of:

(a) selecting a character set for a client request made by client computer to a server computer using a network communication protocol, the selecting comprising:

determining whether the client request includes, as part of the network communication protocol, a request character set designation, and

if the client request does not include the request character set designation[[,]]:

(i) retrieving locale information contained in the client request; and

(ii) associating the locale information with the request character set designation using mapping data located on the server; and

(b) selecting a response character set for a server response from the server to the client, the selecting comprising:

determining whether the server response includes a response character set designation; and

if the server response does not include the response character set designation[[,]]:

(i) retrieving locale information contained in the server response; and

(ii) associating the locale information contained in the server response with the response character set designation using the mapping data.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the network communications protocol used to make the client request and the server response comprises the hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP).

18. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein associating comprises accessing a character set lookup table that maps the locale information to the request character set designation and response request character set designation, respectively.

19. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16, further comprising associating the request character set designation with a code-set converter designation by accessing a converter lookup table which maps the code-set converter designation with the request character set designation.

20. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein the locale information contains a cultural language preference identifier.

21. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein the character set designations contain an IANA character set parameter.

22. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16, further comprising associating the request character set designation with a code-set converter designation.

23. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the code-set converter designation is contained in a lookup table and is mapped with response character set designation.

24. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the code-set converter designation is indicative of user specific implementations of character sets.

25. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 24, wherein the code-set converter designation is contained in a Java Virtual Machine (JVM) code-set converter.

26. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16, further comprising converting the client request into Unicode characters.

27. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 26, further comprising converting the response from Unicode characters to the character set associated with the locale information.